

LIBRARY VISITS AND USE OF INTERNET AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, LUDHIANA

ANJANA RAI¹ & KANWALJIT KAUR²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management,
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

²Professor, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management,
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana Punjab, India

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to know and compare the factors affecting academic performance of undergraduate students of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. A sample of 150 students was selected through purposive sampling technique from three colleges of PAU, Ludhiana having Government funded programmes namely B.Sc. (Hons) Home Science, B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture, B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering & Technology). Data were collected with the help of the specially prepared questionnaire. Findings indicate that majority of the respondents (58.66%) visited the library. - eight percent of the students were visited the library weekly for preparation of competitive examination. There was non-significant association found between the habit of going to a library and academic performance of the students. The highest percentage of the students used internet when they felt a need. A variation in duration and use of the internet by students of different colleges was also significant. Significant association was observed between academic performance of the students with the use of internet.

KEY WORDS: Academic Performance, Internet & Library Visit

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INTRODUCTION

Students are the most essential asset for any educational institute. The academic performance of the students plays a pivotal role in the social and economic development of the country. Internet is the most wanted information and communication technology that brought the worldwide revolutionary change in the information scenario. It helps students to broaden their academic knowledge, research and assignments by accessing to the information world and also by easy communication to their academic community. Though there are many benefits linked with Internet use, there has been a growing concern regarding the risk associated with Internet overuse (Siraj 2016). Students of universities for higher learning mainly take help of information available on the Internet in their coursework. The internet is also utilized for preparing their assignments, entertainment, online ticket booking, blogging, online shopping, e-banking and for their research work. Though we get many e-books, online journals on the internet but, college library plays a pivotal role in the academic life of the students. As we say that books are the best friends of students, by reading books they can derive maximum profit in enhancing their academic performance. It is impossible for anyone to purchase all the books that are published. In a library, we can select the subject in which we are interested. A good library also purchases books selected or recommended by the readers. Hence membership of a library gives one the opportunity of becoming familiar with a large number and variety of

books the college library is an important hub of campus life. There, you can check out books, conduct your research, find a quiet place to study, and maybe even flip through a magazine (Tami S 2015). What's more, today's college libraries extend their reach out into the Internet, making many services and resources accessible right from their websites.

The academic performance of students is an area of greatest concern which plays an important role in becoming more competent, intelligent and intellectual professionals. Keeping this in mind the study was conducted with the following objectives:

- To compare the use of internet among students of different colleges of PAU, Ludhiana and its association with the academic performance of the students
- To study the purpose of library visits and its association with the academic performance of undergraduate students.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in three colleges of PAU, Ludhiana having Government funded undergraduate programmes namely B.Sc.(Hons.) Home Science, B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture, B.Tech.(Agricultural Engineering & Technology). A sample for the study was selected through purposive sampling technique. Further 50 students of final year class of each programme were selected randomly. Thus total 150 students from three selected programmes comprised the sample for the study. The data for the study was collected through questionnaire technique.

Operational Definition of Academic Performance

It refers to overall credit point average (OCPA) of undergraduate students at end of 7th semester of their respective degree programme. It was divided into three categories i.e. Low (below 7.0), medium (7.0 - 8.0) and high (above 8.0 OCPA).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the academic factors have been discussed in detail and the results have been reported under the following sub-headings.

1. Use of internet among students of different Colleges of PAU and its association with the academic performance of the students.
2. Library visit among students of different Colleges of PAU and its association with their academic performance.

Table 1: Distribution of Students according to their Duration and use of the Internet (Weekly)

N=150

Hrs. per week	Less than 2 hrs.	2-4 hrs.	4-6hrs.	6-8 hrs.	8-10 hrs.	Need Based	Chi Square value	Krushkalwallis H Value
	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)		
College of Agril. Engg.	3 (6.0)	4 (8.0)	8 (16.0)	1 (2.0)	4 (8.0)	30(60.0)		
College of H.Sc.	14(28.0)	8 (16.0)	3 (6.0)	7 (14.0)	4 (8.0)	14(28.0)		
College of Agri.	3 (6.0)	5 (10.0)	-	2 (4.0)	2 (4.0)	38(56.0)		
Total	20(13.33)	17(11.33)	11(7.33)	10(6.66)	10(6.66)	82(54.66)	19.18*	19.2*

*Significant at 5 % level of significance

It is clear from data depicted in Table1 that the highest percentage of the students (54.66%) used the internet when they felt a need. Ayub et al (2014) indicated in his study on use of internet for academic purposes among students in Malaysian Institutions of higher education that on average, the students accessed the Internet 4.48 hours per day and also found that computer science students spending more time online (5.61 hours per day) than the others Social Sciences, Engineering and Agriculture Students. Krushkal wallis value showed significant variations in duration and use of internet by students of different colleges. A close look at data presented in Table 1 revealed that the use of internet among the students was significantly associated with the academic performance as the chi-square value came to be 19.18. The trend of data in Table 2 showed that six per cent of students who used internet less than two hours had high academic performance.

Kumar and Manjunath(2010), Siraj(2016) and Kim (2011) found that students who were using internet for more hours had high academic performance and they contradicted the findings of present study. Emeke and Nyeta (2016) and Ogedebe (2012) revealed that internet acts as a beneficial tool for enhancing the skills and capabilities of the students and his findings are in agreement with the finding of present study. Top rackci (2007) showed that students used the Internet for academic purposes. Austin and Totaro (2011) indicated that excessive Internet use lowers the probability of earning top grades while more moderate use has a positive impact on the academic performance of the students and also supported the findings of present study. Brafı and Aurthor (2011) conducted a study on internet use among students in tertiary institutions in Ghana and indicated that the use of internet enhanced teaching, research and learning.

Visit of Students to Library

The data in Table 2 indicated that fifty eight percent of students had habit of going to library. College wise data revealed that equal percentage (62%) of students of both Colleges i.e College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology and College of Agriculture used to visit their respective college library as well as M.S Randhawa library of PAU, Ludhiana followed by fifty two per cent of students of Home Science College.

Table 2: Distribution of Students According to the Purpose and Frequency of Library Visits

n=150

Purpose and Frequency for Visiting Library	College of Agril. Engg. n ₁ =50	College of H.Sc. n ₂ =50	College of Agri. n ₃ =50	Total n=150	Krushkal wallis H Value	r Value
	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)		
Go to library	31 (62.0)	26 (52.0)	31 (62.0)	88(58.66)	1.40 ^{NS}	3.68 ^{NS}
Purpose	n_{1a}= 31	n_{2a}=26	n_{3a}=31	n_a =88		
Assignment preparation	-	2 (7.69)	4 (12.90)	6 (6.81)		
Daily	16 (51.61)	20 (76.92)	20 (64.51)	56 (63.63)		
Weekly	4 (12.90)	3 (11.5)	3 (9.67)	10 (11.36)		
Just before submission						
Reading	6 (19.35)	7 (26.92)	22 (70.96)	35 (39.8)		
Daily	6 (19.35)	9 (34.61)	8 (25.80)	23 (26.13)		
Weekly	14 (45.16)	2 (7.7)	2 (6.45)	18 (20.45)		
Just before exam						
Preparation of competitive exam	1 (3.22)	1 (3.84)	2 (6.45)	4 (4.54)		
Daily	13 (41.9)	12 (46.15)	18 (58.06)	43 (48.86)		
Weekly	2 (6.45)	3 (11.53)	4 (12.90)	9 (10.22)		
Just before exam						
Getting books	2 (6.45)	1 (3.57)	2 (6.45)	5 (5.68)		
Daily	15 (48.38)	12(46.15)	10 (32.25)	37 (42.04)		
Weekly	9 (29.03)	3 (11.53)	18 (58.06)	30 (34.09)		

Just before exam						
Magazines and newspaper reading						
Daily	7 (22.58)	2 (7.6)	7 (22.58)	16 (18.18)		
Weekly	10 (32.25)	10 (38.46)	11 (35.48)	31 (35.22)		

*Multiple Response

The students were further asked for purposes and frequency of going to the library. Thirty-nine percent of students visits daily for reading whereas for preparing assignment 63 percent visited the library once in a week. Forty-eight percent of the students were visited the library weekly for preparation of competitive examination. Forty two per cent students visited library weekly for getting books and 35.22 per cent of the students were visited library weekly for magazines and newspaper reading. Non – significant variation was found among student of different colleges with respect to their purpose and frequency of visiting the library. A critical examination of data in Table 2 indicated that there was no association found between the habit of going to the library and academic performance of the students. Kot and Jones (2014), Brown (2015) found significant relationship between use of library resource among students with their increase in Grade point average and contradicted the findings of study.

CONCLUSIONS

The study concluded that that the undergraduate students should make regular use of the university library in order to get the books for preparing competitive examination and enhancing their academic performance. It was also concluded that students should go for exploring the e-books through the internet as this would afford them the opportunity of reading books which may not be available in the university library. Students can make use of internet for academic purposes which help in increasing their academic performance.

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